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TITLE: A Tissue Engineering Approach to Study the Progression of Breast Tumor Metastasis in Bone

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17. LIMITATION

OF ABSTRACT

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15. SUBJECT TERMS

a. REPORT

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16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:

Breast cancer, bone metastasis, tissue engineering, mouse model

b. ABSTRACT U c. THIS PAGE

19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON

USAMRMC

19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area

18. NUMBER

OF PAGES

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INTRODUCTION

Human breast cancers display a very high frequency of metastasis to bone. The progression of breast bone metastasis is often "osteolytic" causing a significant deterioration in the quality of life for patients. Various constituents of bone have been postulated to contribute to the progression of breast cancer metastatic lesions in bone. However, study of bone metastasis is hampered by the lack of robotic experimental models. Although animal models involving intracardiac injection of tumor cells or direct injection of tumor cells into tibia are valuable for studying breast bone metastasis, they are complicated and possess too many confounding factors for interpreting results.

We propose a defined approach to reverse engineer an environment, which breast cancer cells may encounter during their progression in bones, to study various aspects of breast bone metastasis. In this approach, we will use calcium phosphate crystals, manufactured as a 3-D scaffold, to grow breast cancer cells and study their growth and progression. We will seed and culture breast cancer cells on calcium phosphate scaffold and then study the growth and progression of breast cancer cells in this defined condition. Then we will xenograft the scaffolds, along with breast cancer cells, into mice to study the tumor formation and progression. Our approach can be extended to evaluate the postulated involvement of other constituents of bone, such as bone marrow stromal cells and osteoblasts, in the progression of breast cancer bone metastasis. For example, we can co-culture stromal cells with breast cancer cells in the scaffolds and then xenograft the scaffolds into mice to assess whether the presence of bone marrow stromal cells can promote the growth and progression of breast tumors. We believe our approach can address many unanswered questions regarding breast cancer bone metastasis.

To validate our approach, the following proof-of-concept studies are proposed:

Aim 1. Study whether calcium phosphate scaffold can directly support the growth and progression of breast cancer in vitro;

Aim 2. Study whether or not calcium phosphate scaffold can promote the formation and osteolytic progression of breast tumors in vivo;

Aim 3. Study whether osteoblasts and bone marrow stromal cells promote the growth and progression of breast cancer cells in vitro and in vivo.

BODY OF REPORT

KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENT

Presentation at 2005 Era of Hope Meeting.

PROGRESS

Task 1. Study whether calcium phosphate scaffold can directly support the growth and progression of breast cancer in vitro.

Breast cancers display a very high frequency of metastasis to bone, causing significant deterioration in the quality of life for patients. Various constituents of bone have been postulated to contribute to bone metastasis. However, animal models involving intraosseous or intracardiac injection of tumor cells are complicated and not conducive for interpreting factors critical for bone metastasis.

In this study, we attempted to reverse engineer an environment to study various aspects of breast bone metastasis. At the initial stage of proof of concept study, we used calcium phosphate (CaPi) crystals as substrata to grow breast cancer cells. We found that MDA-MB-231 (Figure 1) and MCF-7 cells (Figure 2) can adhere, spread, and grow on CaPi substrate. The survival and growth of breast cancer cells on CaPi substrate required the activity of vacuolar ATPase, as suggested by the study using the inhibitor Bafilomycin A1 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

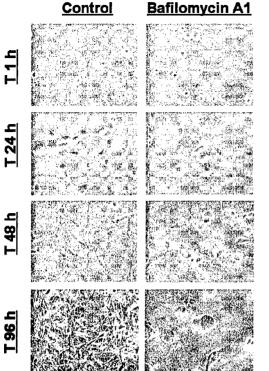


Fig. 1. Growth of MDA-MB-231 cells on CaPi (Left panel) and inhibition of cell growth by Bafilomycin A1, an inhibitor of vacuolar ATPase.

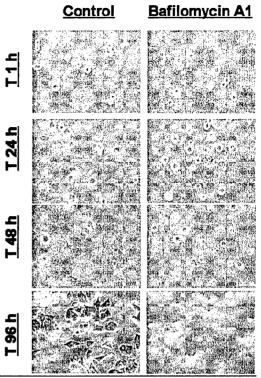
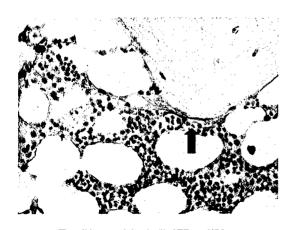


Fig.2. Growth of MCF7 cells on CaPi (Left panel) and inhibition of cell growth by Bafilomycin A1, an inhibitor of vacuolar ATPase (right panel).

<u>Task 2.</u> Study whether or not calcium phosphate scaffold can promote the formation and osteolytic progression of breast tumors in vivo.

We have performed xenografting the CaPi scaffolds, loaded with MDA-MB-231 cells, into mice. We observed that the presence of CaPi scaffolds irritated mice and mice had to be sacrificed much earlier than planned, making the full assessment of osteolytic progression in vivo more difficult.

As mentioned in task 1, we observed that the activities of V-ATPase, which can degrade CaPi to mobilize calcium and phosphate, were required for tumor cell growth on CaPi. Here we further assessed the expression of V-ATPase in breast carcinoma in close proximity of minerals by immunocytochemistry using bone marrow aspirates from breast cancer patients. As shown in Figure 3, V-ATPase was expressed in BCa cells in the proximity of bone matrix.



The slide was stained with ATPase-H3A

Fig.3. Expression of vacuole ATPase in breast cancer cells in the proximity of bone matrix (Positive staining was indicated by the brownish color as arrowed).

Task 3. Study whether osteoblasts and bone marrow stromal cells promote the growth and progression of breast cancer cells in vitro and in vivo.

We also cultured bone marrow mesenchymal cells, as part of our eventual goal to reconstitute an artificial bone microenviroment to study bone metastasis. Due to the relocation of ex-PI of the grant and significant delay in setting up sub-contract, we are still in the process of refining procedure toxenograft CaPi scaffolds, replete with breast cancer cells, into mice to study how bone constituents affect the progression of breast cancer bone metastasis. It should be mentioned that this grant has been extended to August 29, 2006 at no further cost.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS:

- CaPi supported the growth of breast cancer MDA-MB-231 and MCF7 cells.
- Vacuolar ATPase is expressed in breast carcinoma in bone marrow.
- Inhibition of ATPase by Bafilomycin A1 reduced cell survival and growth of breast cancer cells on CaPi substrate.
- Our studies using a tissue engineering approach suggest a potential role of breast cancer cells in directly causing osteolysis in bone marrow.

REPORTABLE OUTCOMES

- Review article published.
 - Nie D, Honn KV. Eicosanoid regulation of angiogenesis in tumors. Semin Thromb Hemost. 2004 Feb;30(1):119-25.
- Abstract published
 - Krishnamoorthy, S., K. R. Maddipati, D. Nie, and K. V. Honn. 12-Lipoxygenase in hypoxia and hypoxia-induced angiogenesis. Proc. Amer. Assoc. Cancer Res. 45: #3591, 2004.
- Development of animal models: Yes.